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December is AIDS awareness month



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Dec. 2,3,4

Sinterklaas will be in the main street TODAY



ORANJESTAD - The Association of Main Street Merchants, MAMBO, announces that once again Sinterklaas, accompanied by his Zwarte Pieten (Black Petes) will visit the main street. This will be today, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

MAMBO prepared a very entertaining afternoon for all kids and invites the whole community to bring their children to greet Sinterklaas. The main street will be closed to facilitate Sinterklaas in his stroll which starts at La Linda and finishes at Djiespie's Place. Afterwards at the corner of Djiespie's Place, Pierewietje will give a "Live" show featur-

ing Christmas and Sinterklaas songs.

At 4:00 p.m. there will be a special party for Sinterklaas at Arcades Playground; parents must pay Afsl. 16 for their children to participate in the event.

MAMBO is very happy that Sinterklaas is buying all his presents in the main street. The association also extends its gratitude to the community in general for shopping in the main street and advises everyone to keep pending for the next shopping events on December 11 and 18 with 'Gaita' shows and lots of entertainment.



An Actuary will silence all disputes concerning proposed pension law for politicians

Due to an attack against the newly introduced law regarding the proposed pension law for Ministers and Parliamentarians, by MEP Parliamentarian Evelyn Wever-Croes, AVP Parliamentaria Juan David Yrausquin submitted the following proposal.

Juan David Yrausquin proposed that Parliament should invite an Actuary (specialist in the application of mathematics to the subject of insurance, especially to that of life assurance) to calculate the difference between the existing pension program and the proposed plan.

According to Evelyn Wever-Croes, the proposed law appears to be beneficial to the politician, but does not reflect the envisioned austerity



Juan David Yrausquin

measure announced by the government. She intimated that she has not yet received a copy of the proposed law and that, according to her, this is the right procedure.

Continued on page 2

APOLOGIES

The Morning News Aruba expresses its most sincere apologies for the fact that the Friday edition was not distributed yesterday. We had a mechanical problem with the printing machines, with the consequence that the newspaper could not be printed on time.

However today all our clients will receive two newspapers, yesterday's and today's edition.

The Morning News Aruba thanks everyone for their understanding.

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

WikiLeaks arrest looms as site fights to stay online

LONDON, England (AFP) - WikiLeaks faced growing pressure yesterday as its founder Julian Assange dealt with a new arrest warrant and death threats, while the website hopped around the globe trying to evade efforts to shut it down.

As the fallout grew from its release of secret US diplomatic cables, the whistleblower site found new domain names in a string of European countries after its original wikileaks.org address was shut down by an American provider.

The elusive Assange, who is believed to be in hiding in Britain, faced fresh trouble as Swedish prosecutors sent out a new international arrest warrant for the 39-year-old Australian over sex assault allegations.

He briefly broke cover yesterday in an online forum

with readers on The Guardian newspaper to say that if anything happened to him or WikiLeaks then 100,000 encrypted copies of the cables would automatically be released.

"The threats against our lives are a matter of public record. However, we are taking the appropriate precautions to the degree that we are able when dealing with a superpower," Assange wrote.

The Guardian is one of several newspapers publishing extracts from the leaked US memos that WikiLeaks started releasing on Sunday, infuriating Washington and plunging its relations with many countries into turmoil.

A Canadian pundit called earlier this week for Assange to be assassinated, while former US Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee

said those responsible for the leaks should face execution.

In Stockholm prosecutors said they had sent a new warrant for Assange that included missing elements in the original warrant requested by the British police. Interpol has also issued an appeal for his arrest.

"They were asking for additional information concerning the maximum penalty for all the crimes and infractions on the file. We usually only include the most severe offence," which was rape in this case, Swedish prosecution office spokeswoman Karin Rosander told AFP.

Assange's lawyer in London, Mark Stephens, said that neither Scotland Yard nor he had received the warrant, adding that given the timescale of the previous warrant he expected it could be up to 10 days before it is served.

British police sources indicated, however, that it could be within "a couple of days."

At least 60 dead in Europe

LONDON, England (AFP) - A cold snap across Europe has claimed at least 60 lives, authorities said yesterday, as snow disrupted transport in Britain and serious flooding forced thousands of people to be evacuated in the Balkans.

Seventeen people died from the cold in Central Europe in the past 24 hours, bringing the total this week to 45. A further 11 died in Russia, plus three in France and one in Germany, according to local authorities.

At least 30 people, mainly homeless men, have died in Poland in the past week, and temperatures dropped to minus 15 degrees Celsius (five degrees Fahrenheit) overnight.

An Actuary will silence all disputes concerning proposed pension law...

Continued from page 1

The Government must submit their proposed laws to the Consultative Counsel for their review and opinion, after which it is presented to Parliament for their review, adjustment and final approval.

Juan David Yrausquin, on the other hand, indicated that, based on the information circulating in the local news media, it is obvious that the proposed law does not reflect any financial advantage or new benefits for our Ministers or Parliamentarians. The current situation allows for a Parliamentarian to begin collecting pension at the age of 50 years; while in the proposed pension law he will have to wait 10 years to collect pension....at age 60.

Ministers in the current pension law can collect pension at age 45, whereas in the new law they would have to wait 15 years, at 60, to begin collecting pension. In addition, there will no longer be the situation of accumulating pension as is the case with the current pension law for politicians.

Although, it is obvious from the detailed information already circulated that there is no personal or additional benefit for politicians implied or implicit in the new proposed law, the AVP Parliamentarian believes that it is prudent to employ the services of an Actuary to avoid any further misunderstanding and/or ill-favored discussion concerning this proposed pension law.

Furthermore, he is proposing that Mr. Fowler, the brainchild behind the original study to change the current pension law, be invited to

present his opinion on the current law proposal. Mr. Fowler served as the President of the commission charged with presenting a proposal for the revision of the current pension law.

Yrausquin asserted that once these proposals have been enacted, that there should no longer be any dispute by the MEP party in parliament, specifically, parliamentarian, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes; and that all 21 members of parliament can move to vote for the approval of this new pension law. Aruba can begin having more confidence in its political leaders with the implementation of this new pension law for Ministers and Parliamentarians.

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To interchange ideas on how to stimulate innovation within the public and private sector

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar meets with local merchants



ORANJESTAD – Recently, Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar met with a group of local mer-

chants to interchange ideas and thoughts on innovation in business and the public sector. Aim of this meeting is to stimulate more innovation in order to

make Aruba more competitive in our region. Innovation is the introduction of a new idea, method or device.

According to Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar innovation is not only relevant for doing businesses but for the whole private and public sector to think that innovation is a necessity to survive in our modern world.

The group discussed different ways to stimulate more entrepreneurship on Aruba, not only quantity but also quality wise to ensure that they can contribute in a structural manner to our economy. And here is where innovation plays an important role.

During the meeting different examples came forward how innovation can improve a company. Implementation of new technology surely is a form of innovation, but we can innovate by using methods that are not tied to modern technology; i.e. Mary Joan Foundation demonstrated how innovation in the fashion world opened doors to breast cancer patients

The meeting ended with the compromise by all the attendees to meet again in order to reach a concept that stimulates innovation on Aruba.

Sinterklaas Shopping Night tonight at SETAR Teleshop Irausquinplein



ORANJESTAD – Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V., announces that the Teleshop at Irausquinplein will remain open for a few more hours for a tremendous Shopping Night today. The Teleshop will stay open

until 7:30 p.m. with entertainment of Arugaldo and many good offers on all products.

SETAR will have various shopping nights before the end of the year, in order to offer clients the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping after leaving working.

The company has many offers, discounts, campaigns and attractive prices on all products. Everyone wants a Blackberry 3G or an Android 3G cellular for Sinterklaas. SETAR also has 3G iPads and WiFi; a beautiful present for Sinterklaas to put in the shoes or under the Christmas trees.

SETAR N.V. started his

2010 Christmas campaign offering clients many chances to win cash prizes. With every purchase at or service rendered by SETAR, clients receive a ticket to participate in the raffle; just fill it in and throw it in the barrel.

Also, all SETAR N.V. clients received with their December billing a ticket to participate in the raffle.

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1st prize: Afl.17.500,- (Winner will be picked on January 3, 2011)

2nd prize: Afl.10.000,- (Winner will be picked on December 12, 2010)

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So mark your calendar, go shop tonight at SETAR. It promises to be very exciting.



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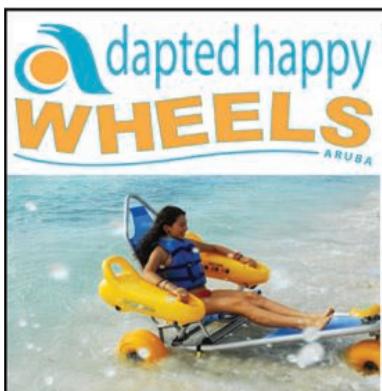
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Aussie bloke 'marries' best mate -- his dog



SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) — An Australian man has surprised friends by getting married -- to his pet dog of five years, a golden labrador called Honey.

Twenty-year-old Joe Guiso said the "marriage" ceremony performed by a friend in the Queensland town of Toowoomba was simply a creative and light-

hearted way of bringing together family and friends.

"This was just an event for my friends and I to get together," he told AFP yesterday. "It really was fun. We all dressed up in suits and everything.

"But you can't actually marry a dog."

Guiso, who revelled at a stag night at a friend's house before the event, says while he loves his dog, it is "just Plutonic love."

"There's nothing sexual," he said, adding that he hoped no one was offended by the unconventional pooch partnership. "It really should be taken lightly."



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"Love will keep us together"



For the past 11 years, Thomas and Donna Fisher, from Michigan, have been coming down to beautiful Aruba, their "home away from home," to where the trade winds "make everything comfy" and the sunsets are the best!

This year was different here because Tom, a romantic at heart - as Donna calls him - decided to surprise her with a renewal of their wedding vows ceremony (35th Anniversary) on the Eagle Beach accompanied by their daughter Leah, who flew down from California to be part of this moment as a surprise also.

Edwina Werleman of E2 Events arranged everything flawlessly from the beach set up to the Officiant and Photographer, husband and wife team, Kees and Diane Keijzer.

The Fishers love Aruba and their time share so much at The Divi Links that they decided to buy another week.

*Courtesy of Diane Keijzer
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Paseo Herencia Shopping Center welcomes photos services of Checkpoint color



Dyron and Farita officially open Paseo Photo

Aruba's longest established photofinishing center, Checkpoint Color, opened a convenient outlet in Palm Beach on Thursday, December 2 at the Paseo Herencia Mall. A product of the Ver Meer and Luidens family, co-owner Farita Luidens was assisted by

and demonstrating that memorable moments captured connects the generations.

Located a few steps from The Cinemas box office, Photo Paseo offers a full-service photography center, much of which can be expedited at their self-service photo processing

So easy to process your pix a child can do it

adorable Dyron in demonstrating the ease of use of their photo processing stations. An easy and intuitive user interface allows one to download from any size flash card, crop, edit, color correct and even add artful frames and captions to create custom Aruba prints and postcards.

Vacationers will appreciate the option to have all their photos burned to a CD when they find they have filled up their camera's card and don't want to delete a single memory. They can be saved to be



The Paseo Photo Crew with Centers GM Valerie Camacho

processed upon returning home and allow one to be sure to capture that perfect tropical sunset without sacrifice.

Fernando Ver Meer carries on the family tradition by being an artist of photo editing, and can turn those holiday shots into a stunning photo book; a wonderful souvenir of your Aruban interlude.

Studio portraits, speedy laser printing of customized

Christmas cards, posters and business cards are all offered on premises as well as specially sized portraits required for passports and local documents.

Photo Paseo invites all to visit the shop and investigate their numerous services with the additional mall hours that extend until well after dark.

by Rosalie Klein

Sci-Tech**Nissan to launch electric Leaf on Dec. 20**

TOKYO (AFP) – Nissan on Friday said it will launch the Leaf in Japan on December 20 and days later in the United States as it bets on drivers' readiness to embrace the first globally mass-produced electric car.

"We believe this is a true breakthrough and it will serve as a key for mobility of the future," Nissan chief operating officer Toshiyuki Shiga told reporters in Tokyo. "We believe this is the dawn of a new era."

The Leaf -- short for Leading Environmentally-friendly Affordable Family car -- has enjoyed a crescendo of industry buzz and last month became the first electric vehicle to win European Car of the Year.

The fulcrum of Nissan's green ambitions, the mid-sized five-seat hatchback is already a sell-out in the United States on pre-orders. It will be launched in select European markets in early 2011.

Nissan said prices would start at 3.76 million yen (45,000 dollars), but the actual price customers would pay would start at 2.98 million yen as the environmentally friendly car will be eligible for subsidies.

The automaker has gambled that its electric car will take off globally and overcome consumer concerns such as "range-anxiety", or the fear that their cars will run out of juice between charging points.

It said that on a full charge the car can reach a maximum speed of 145 kilometres (90 miles) per hour and its top driving range is 200 kilometres on a single eight-hour charge from a household charger, more than enough for everyday use of most motorists.

For those in a hurry, it can be rapid-charged to 80 percent of capacity in 30 minutes at special charging stations.

Nissan's 2,200 dealerships in Japan will have normal chargers, while 200 selected dealerships will have rapid-chargers, putting at least one

fast charger in a 40-kilometre radius across Japan.

US space agency finds new form of life... on Earth

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Bacteria that thrive on arsenic have been scooped from a California lake, a discovery that redefines the building blocks of life and offers new hope in the search for other organisms on Earth and beyond.

Not only do the bacteria survive, they grow by swapping phosphorus for arsenic in their DNA and cell membranes, said the study funded by the US space agency NASA and published Thursday in the journal *Science*.

The findings add a new dimension to what biologists consider the necessary elements for life, currently viewed as six elements: carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur.

"What we've found is a microbe doing something new -- building parts of itself out of arsenic," said scientist Felisa Wolfe-Simon, a fellow in NASA's astrobiology program who made the groundbreaking discovery at Mono Lake in eastern California.

"There's an organism on Earth doing something different," said Wolfe-Simon. "We've cracked open the door to what's possible for life elsewhere in the universe. And that's profound."

Ariel Anbar, a co-author of the study, explained how Wolfe-Simon was able to get the bacteria known as strain GFAJ-1 of the Halomonadaceae family of Gamoproteobacteria to grow under extreme toxic conditions in the lab.

"She takes this sediment, puts it in a bottle essentially where there is lots of arsenic and very little phosphorus, and she does it over and over so only organisms that are going to be happy in that environment survive," said

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Felisa Wolfe-Simon (L), NASA astrobiology research fellow, speaks while Mary Voytek (R) NASA director, Astrobiology Program, listens during a news conference at NASA Headquarters

Anbar.

"The organism came from nature," said Anbar, a scientist at Arizona State University's School of Earth and Space Exploration. "It is a known bacteria. It is not a brand new bug but nobody realized it could do this," he said.

Scientists have known for some time that some microbes can use arsenic for energy, much like humans do with oxygen or food.

"The way I like to put it is they smoke it but they don't inhale it," said Paul Davies, a co-author of the paper and British-born cosmologist at Arizona State University.

"So the big question we all wanted to know was where has the arsenic gone? Is the arsenic really in their innards?

"Eventually, bit by bit, the evidence accumulated that indeed the arsenic was in the DNA, the proteins, the lipid membranes and the metabolites, so it was everywhere where it is important."

A few years ago, Wolfe-Simon, Anbar and Davies began discussing the idea that different life forms could exist on Earth but by biological rules unlike ours, a no-

tion known informally by scientists as "weird life."

The trio published in 2009 their hypothesis that arsenic, which is directly below phosphorus on the periodic table, could substitute for phosphorus in Earth life forms.

"We conjectured that maybe life started via the arsenic route and phosphorus was the later adaptation," said Davies, noting that they still are not sure which came first, or if this bacteria could be "like a living fossil, a hangover from an earlier arsenic epoch."

But the discovery has made him think about all the forms of life out there that scientists may have missed.

"This is going to open up a whole new line of inquiry. First of all this can't be the only arsenic organism on the planet, there is going to be a lot more, so this is a whole new domain of microbiology that it represents," said Davies.

"Who knows what else is out there if we take a harder look?"

The findings, leaked early in a vague but intriguing announcement by NASA that mentioned "extraterrestrial life," lit up the blogosphere

and stunned many scientists. Arizona State University professor James Elser said he has spent years telling students that phosphorus was a necessary part of DNA.

"The idea that I am sitting here today discussing the idea that this is not true is shocking," said Elser, a panelist at a NASA press conference on the discovery.

Caleb Scharf, a Columbia University astrobiologist, told The New York Times he was amazed.

"It's like if you or I morphed into fully functioning cyborgs after being thrown into a room of electronic scrap with nothing to eat," he said.

NASA has conducted numerous probes at eastern California's Mono Lake, an unusually salty body of water with high arsenic and mineral levels, as it is likely to reflect conditions under which early life evolved on Earth, or perhaps Mars.

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Health & Living

US lawmakers pass school lunch bill

WASHINGTON (AFP) – US lawmakers on Thursday passed a 4.5-billion-dollar bill that will give more US kids school meals and let the government set child nutrition guidelines.

The House of Representatives passed the bill by 264 votes to 157. It will now go to President Barack Obama to be signed into law.

First Lady Michelle Obama, who this year launched a campaign against child obesity, called the bill a "groundbreaking piece of bi-

partisan legislation that will significantly improve the quality of meals that children receive at school and play an integral role in our efforts to combat childhood obesity."

The bill pledges 4.5 billion dollars over 10 years to child nutrition programs, increases the reimbursement paid to schools by the federal government for free meals provided to children, and expands access to school lunches and after-school meals.

Party drug mephedrone banned across EU

BRUSSELS (AFP) – The European Union on Friday banned suspected killer drug mephedrone, a popular ecstasy-like party drug sometimes known as "meow meow" that is sold on the Internet and available in 12 EU nations.

Mephedrone, already illegal in 15 EU nations, has been linked to 37 deaths in Britain and Ireland alone and appears to be the sole cause of two deaths in the EU.

"It is good to see that EU governments are prepared to take swift action to ban this dangerous drug," said EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding after the 27-nation bloc agreed the ban.

"This drug is sold over the Internet, often behind innocent names like plant food or bath salts. Young people should not be fooled. These drugs are harmful."

The decision bans the manufacturing and the mar-

keting of mephedrone, submitting it to criminal sanctions all over Europe.

Sold in powder form, capsules or tablets by street dealers, or over the web posing as salts or plant fertiliser, its effects are comparable to ecstasy or cocaine -- but at only 10 to 15 euros a gram.

Also known as "bubble" or "neodove," it has been banned in Austria, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania and Sweden.

A scientific risk assessment carried out by the Lisbon-based European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) showed that mephedrone can cause acute health problems and lead to dependency.

It has no established medical value or other known legitimate purpose.

TIP: Keeping Mold at Bay

Indoor mold can lead to allergy and respiratory problems that can prove deadly.

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) offer these suggestions for keeping mold growth in your home under control:

* Keep the indoor humidity level at less than 40 percent. A hygrometer can help you monitor indoor humidity. A dehumidifier and/or air conditioner may be needed, especially in damp areas of the home.

* Fix the source of any water leaks that allow mold spores to grow on windowsills or in refrigerator drip pans.

* Identify areas where molds and mildew reside on hard surfaces, and clean these areas with a bleach-based product.

* Make sure your home has adequate ventilation. Use exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathroom, and ventilate clothes dryers to the outside.

* Clean your shower curtain frequently.

* Minimize the number of live indoor plants.

* Keep windows closed, if possible.

* Do not carpet bathrooms and basements, especially if there are mildew problems in these rooms.

Infidelity Might Be in the Genes

Genetics might help explain why some people are more prone to infidelity and promiscuity, says a new study.

Researchers analyzed the DNA of 181 young adults who provided a complete history of their sexual activity and intimate partnerships. They concluded that the dopamine receptor D4 (DRD4) gene plays a major role in sexual behavior.

Previous research has linked the DRD4 gene, which influences brain chemistry, to sensation-seeking activities such as gambling and alcohol use.

"What we found was that individuals with a certain variant of the DRD4 gene were more likely to have a history of uncommitted sex, including one-night stands and acts of infidelity," study leader Justin Garcia, of the laboratory of evolutionary anthropology and health at Binghamton University, State University of New York, said in a university news release.

"The motivation seems to stem from a system of pleasure and reward, which is where the release of dopamine comes in. In cases of uncommitted sex, the risks are high, the rewards substantial and the motivation variable -- all elements that ensure a dopamine 'rush,'" Garcia explained.

The findings, published in the current issue of the online journal PLoS One, shouldn't be viewed as an excuse for cheating or promiscuity, Garcia stressed.

"These [gene-behavior] relationships are associative, which means that not everyone with the genotype will have one-night stands or commit infidelity. Indeed, many people without this genotype still have one-night stands and commit infidelity," Garcia said. "The study merely suggests that a much higher proportion of those with this genetic type are likely to engage in these behaviors."



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Depression screening urged for young women with menopause-like symptoms

Young women with a menopause-like condition called primary ovarian insufficiency should be evaluated for depression, a new study suggests.

Women with the condition, called POI for short, stop producing normal amounts of reproductive hormones, develop hot flashes, typically become infertile and, in addition, face an increased risk for depression. POI can develop as early as the teens or 20s, according to the researchers, from the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

The investigators evaluated 174 women with POI and found that 67 percent either currently had depression or had been clinically depressed at least once in the past. That rate is more than twice the rate found among women in general, the researchers noted.

The finding was released online in advance of publication in an upcoming print issue of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

Just why depression seems more prevalent among

women with POI, however, remains unclear. The theory that learning of a POI diagnosis is what triggered depression in most women with the condition was not supported by the study, which found that more than 68 percent of the women became depressed before they were diagnosed.

What doctors should do, however, was made clear by the study, according to one of the study's senior authors, Dr. Lawrence M. Nelson, head of integrative and reproductive medicine at the U.S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

"Because of the strong association with depression, our results indicate all women diagnosed with POI should be thoroughly evaluated for depression," Nelson said in an NIH news release.

"Simply asking patients if they are depressed is not sufficient," he added. "Primary care physicians should evaluate their patients with a diagnostic screening test to determine if treatment or referral to a mental health specialist for further evaluation is needed."

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Keeping Our Island Coast Clean

The AHATA environmental commission has one important mission, and that is to create national awareness for the conservation and protection of Aruba's environment. This, in order for us to enjoy it today and for future generations to also have a healthy and clean environment to enjoy.

This year again AHATA's environmental commission organized its 9th annual Coastal Cleanup. This year a record 1,850 volunteers participated in the clean up efforts. Volunteers came from charity organizations, public sector organizations, private concerns, AHATA's own membership, people in general, and our beloved school kids. AHATA gratefully acknowledges everyone who made this clean up such a success. Because of the help of so many, AHATA's National Coastal Clean up for 2010 collected a total of eight 20 yards containers each of trash and debris from 24 areas around the entire island.

AHATA particularly singled out their main sponsor, Coca Cola/Balashi, for their excellent cooperation this year, which they believe was one of the reasons for the large turn out of volunteers. All other sponsors were mentioned, with Manchebo getting very special mention for their invaluable cooperation last year and again this year. Members of AHATA and her Commission were the motor behind the entire event. Without their tireless and dedicated support they could not have pulled this off so efficiently.

Roy and Grace Maduro graciously offered their premises at Fantastic Gardens' Garden Cafe to host the recognition ceremony replete with drinks and snacks.

CEO and President of AHATA together with Daniel Aguirre did the honors of presenting the award plaques to the participating schools, which was followed by a raffle among the schools present.



The first prize, a workshop to learn about how to plant and care for plants, was presented to the Santa Anna primary school as a gift from Fantastic Gardens. This first prize also included a plant gift to each child.

The second prize, offered by Coca Cola/Balashi, went to Filomena MAVO (secondary) school....a case of assorted drinks.

AHATA expressed gratitude to each of the 21 schools who helped them surpass all expectations and the goal set for this year's clean up. They look forward to this same kind of enthusiasm and commitment for next year's Coastal Cleanup.

AHATA's environmental commission will continue to make our island citizens aware of the need to keep our island clean on a daily basis...and follow the example set by the participants in the clean up effort.

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The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other in-



Grandma's stoba with classic rice & beans and homemade potato beet salad

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu, made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

Aruba Archaeological Museum lights its Christmas Tree

To launch the Christmas season in the neighborhood



This past week the Aruba Archaeological Museum lit up its Christmas tree, setting the holiday season in the neighborhood. The "Comision Celebracion Dianan Nacional" (CCDN) – the Committee for Celebrating National Days, the "Rancho" Foundation together with our local artist Ryan Oduber, other entities and enthusiastic volunteers cooperated to start this beautiful activity in the community called "Pasco den Bario," - Christmas in the neighborhood.

The Christmas tree is very unique. The creative students of *Scol Paso pa Futuro* made different, very original ornaments to decorate the tree. On the night of the lighting of the tree, other kids of the community also got the opportunity to decorate the tree. At present,



there are students of different schools who are making their ornament to hang in the tree.

Gaita group 'Paranda ta Nos' entertained the public with their nice repertoire of Christmas songs. The night was very amiable; everyone present could admire on a giant screen the results of the workshop the students of *Scol Paso pa Futuro* followed under the direction of plastic artist Ryan Oduber. To close off the night, musical group "Fortaleza," under the guidance of Doodle Sophia, put the public on its feet to enjoy the night to the max.

The neighborhood of Rancho was completely mesmerized with this magical end-of-the-year musical event. The ambiance was like a Christmas fair where everyone could enjoy delicious food, refreshing drinks, sweets and local handicrafts.

The Aruba Archaeological Museum expresses its gratitude to Cede Aruba and "Stichting Samenwerkende Fondsen voor de Nederlandse Antillen" - the Netherlands Antilles Cooperating Foundation Funds and the Aruban community for their tremendous support in organizing this event, and for all the other public and educational activities regarding the "Rancho" temporary exposition.

The Aruba Archaeological Museum reminds everyone that it is open for the public every weekend from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



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Adrianne Jacobs enjoys Radio City Christmas Spectacular in New York



Adrianne Jacobs

Adrianne Jacobs was the lucky winner of SETAR N.V.'s "On Tour" campaign. She received a trip to New York to see the fabulous Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Adrianne and her parents enjoyed a tremendous show and many other touristic attractions, among others, Time Square, Central Zoo Park, Empire State Building,



Photo shows Adrianne with her Mom and Dad in New York.

St. Patrick Cathedral, Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, and the Believe it or not Museum. Adrianne even skated on the plaza of the famous Rockefeller Center.

Adrianne Jacobs is the main hostess of the youth program "Conoce nos Talen-

tonan" and tonight during the show at 8:30 p.m., she will show viewers all the fun she had in New York.

Adrianne would like to express her thanks to SETAR N.V. for giving her the opportunity to enjoy such a wonderful vacation

Get ready to experience an adrenaline rush like no other Kite Surfing is an absolute thrill and the latest in extreme sports...



Kite surfing or kiteboarding is a surface water sport that uses the wind to pull a rider through the water on a small surfboard or a kiteboard (similar to a wakeboard). Generally kiteboarding refers to a style of riding known as freestyle or wake-style, whereas kitesurfing is more "wave-riding" oriented. These two styles usually require different boards and specific performance kites.

A kitesurfer or kiteboarder uses a board with or without foot-straps or bindings, combined with the power of a large controllable kite to propel the rider and the board across the water. In 2006, the number of kitesurfers has been estimated at around 150,000 to 210,000, with 114,465 inflatable kites sold that same year.

The sport is becoming safer due to innovations in kite design, safety release systems, and instructions. Riding styles have evolved to suit riders and conditions, such as wakestyle, waveriding, freestyle, freeride, jumping, and cruising.

Kitesurfing started on the island in 1998. Armando Wester, a professional windsurfer and certified instructor, and his buddies were the first ones to introduce Kitesurfing to the island of Aruba.

Since then, they have gotten more than 5,000 visitors and locals hooked on this new adrenaline rush sport.

Their years of experience, the trade winds on the island, the beautiful Caribbean Sea and the latest equipment make it an ideal and safe place for anyone to learn to kite. Kitesurfing is a hybrid of wakeboarding, hand-gliding and windsurfing for a radical new approach of kite power.

Anyone between the ages of 8 and 77 can enjoy this sport.

So don't hesitate to call Armando or visit him at the Fisherman's huts, just north of the Aruba Marriott Resort, and see for yourself what an exhilarating rush this sport really is.

Lessons start daily at 9 a.m., 12 noon or 3 p.m.

Philippine bishop accuses Santa of stealing Christmas

MANILA, The Philippines (AFP) – A senior statesman of the Philippines' dominant Catholic church has accused Santa Claus of stealing the true spirit of Christmas, which he said is deteriorating into a shopping frenzy.

In comments published by a Roman Catholic website yesterday, Teodoro Bacani, a newly retired Manila bishop, said Santa Claus now had too much appeal in the Philippines, where eight in 10 people are baptised Catholics.

"Santa Claus helps promote consumerism because he is the symbol of shopping and

gift-giving. Christ symbolizes the sacrifice of life for man. But Santa has more commercial draw," Bacani said.

Bacani lamented that statues and images of Santa Claus were now displayed prominently across the Philippines while the traditional Christian symbol of the creche denoting the birth of Jesus was disappearing.

Filipinos should remember that Christmas is meant to celebrate the birth of Jesus, said Bacani, a former close confidant of the late Philippine leader and democracy icon Corazon Aquino.

Sunday: NFL tail-gate BBQ from 10:30 a.m. Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry all UFC fights & WWE events.



Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 am., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

by Rosalie Klein



Teodoro Bacani

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Stolen Degas painting to be sent home to France



NEW YORK (AFP) - An Edgar Degas painting stolen nearly 30 years ago from a museum in France will be returned by the US government, which recovered the rare artwork shortly before it was to be sold at auction, officials said.

The painting, "Blanchisseuses souffrant des dents," was stolen from a French museum in 1973 and resurfaced recently when investigators discovered that it was set for auction at Sotheby's in New York.

Degas' Impressionist portrait of a laundrywoman holding her face in pain from an aching tooth was stolen in December 1973 from the Malraux Museum in Le Havre, Normandy.

The artwork, painted by

Degas between 1870-72, had been on loan from the Paris government to the museum, which was destroyed in World War II, in honor of its reconstruction.

The Sotheby catalogue for the November 3, 2010 auction had estimated the painting's sale price to be between 350,000 dollars and 450,000 dollars.

"The return of this masterpiece to the French government reflects our commitment to ensure the return of stolen artwork and cultural patrimony," said Loretta Lynch, US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, in a statement.

Lynch said Sotheby's promptly cooperated with law enforcement and pulled the piece from the auction block once it learned that it had a purloined artwork in its possession.

US customs officials and authorities from INTERPOL were also involved in the recovery of the painting, officials said.

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Michael Douglas feels 'stronger every day'

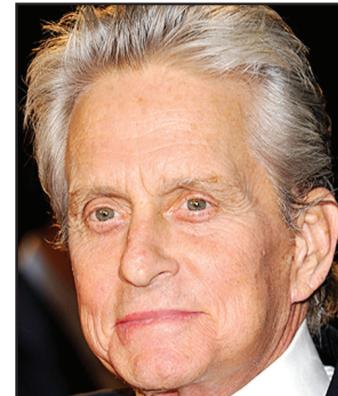
LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) - Veteran Hollywood star Michael Douglas says he feels stronger every day after cancer treatment he described as "hell," in comments published Thursday.

But the 66-year-old actor, who was diagnosed with throat cancer in August, must wait for a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan in January to see whether the walnut-sized tumor has been successfully eradicated.

"I'm five weeks out after treatment and starting to get my energy back. They warn you that even when you stop, the next few weeks you're still getting knocked out by the radiation, so it's a slow recovery," the two-time Oscar winner told the LA Times.

"I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy," he added. "It's a haul. But I'm feeling hopeful and just trying to get my energy back. That's the biggest problem."

Douglas only revealed his diagnosis when he returned to the United States from a family holiday. In September, he said he was in stage-four cancer but



with an 80-percent chance of beating it.

Douglas's wife, Welsh-born actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, voiced anger at the time that doctors had not diagnosed the cancer sooner, thus reducing his chances of beating the disease.

In a separate interview with People magazine, Douglas admitted the eight-week course of chemotherapy and radio therapy treatment had been gruelling.

"The first four weeks after treatment were hell. That was the worst part," said the actor, who lost 20 pounds (nine kilograms) and battled fatigue.

But now, he said: "I feel

stronger every day. But it's a long way back," adding that he and his wife "are very happy and thankful with the way things are going."

The veteran actor, son of Hollywood icon Kirk Douglas, told the LA Times he felt "well" but added: "I really won't know the results until January, when I'll get my first PET scan. That will tell me if I'm completely rid of it or not.

"It looks highly unlikely that I'll have to have surgery," he added.

Douglas is already preparing for his next movie, the title role of a biopic of flamboyant entertainer Liberace, and hopes to promote his latest films "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" and "Solitary Man" for the Academy Awards in February.

But he had some scathing comments on the state of the movie industry.

"The business has gotten nasty... it's tough. Before, you always felt there was a little balance between art and commerce, it kind of kept things going. Now it's strictly commerce. It's all commerce."

Japan's frilly 'maids' go grey



Photo taken on November 21, 2010 shows grim-faced women serving at Cafe Rottenmeier, named after the disciplinary housekeeper in the hit 1970s anime series "Heidi, Girl of the Alps", as part of the Tokyo festival for contemporary stage performances. Patrons are greeted with a terse "welcome home" by an unsmiling Fraulein Rottenmeier lookalike before being scolded for slouching in chairs or for not removing their coats in the cafe's warm, cosy environs. (AFP PHOTO)

German clairvoyant sues client for unpaid fees

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - A clairvoyant sued a client for 7,000 euros (9,200 dollars) in unpaid fees in Germany's highest court yesterday on top of 35,000 euros he had already handed over.

The fortune-teller's lawyer told the Federal Appeals Court in Karlsruhe, southwest

Germany, that she was entitled to charge for her professional services just like a priest exorcising a house with holy water.

Her client, who is in his 40s, sought out the fortuneteller's supernatural services in "life coaching" in 2008 in the hope of winning back his girl-

friend, and was "drawn into her world like into a sect," his lawyer said.

The judge in his opening remarks signalled doubts that the plaintiff had a leg to stand on, since magic was not a proper basis for a contract. A verdict is not expected for several weeks.

Djokovic fireworks bring Serbia level with France



BELGRADE (AFP) - World number three Novak Djokovic fired a blistering 62 winners to defeat Gilles

Simon 6-3, 6-1, 7-5 on Friday and pull Serbia level at 1-1 after the opening day of the Davis Cup final against

Westwood takes three-shot lead at Sun City

SUN CITY (AFP) - World number one Lee Westwood of England carded an eight-under 64 Friday to take a three-stroke advantage after two rounds of the five-million-dollar Sun City Challenge.

And the 37-year-old who replaced American icon Tiger Woods at the top of the table recently was followed by the other four members of the victorious Europe 2010 Ryder Cup team competing in this 12-man invitation tournament.

Westwood lies 12 under on 132 after improving his first round score by four shots and missed equalling the record score for a round in the 30-year Challenge by just one stroke.

Fellow Englishman Ross Fisher remained second in the chase for a record 1.25-million-dollar first prize by adding a 68 to his opening 67 at the 7162-metre Gary Player Country Club northwest of Johannesburg.

Overnight leader Padraig Harrington from Ireland had to settle for an even-par 72

and a share of third place on 138 with Spaniard Miguel Angel Jimenez and Italian Edoardo Molinari.

Pony-tailed cigar smoker Jimenez carded a second consecutive 69 while Molinari fired a 67 -- four strokes better than his first round -- in an event popularly known as the African 'Major'.

Ernie Els did best of four South African challengers, adding a 68 to his opening 71 to lie on 139, seven strokes adrift of Westwood with 36 holes remaining.

Westwood, who lists cars, cinema, snooker and supporting English second-tier football club Nottingham Forest among his interests, delivered a flawless round with four birdies on each nine.

Harrington, the 39-year-old winner of three 'Majors' who opted for the practice area rather than talk to the media after the first round, lost his sparkle on the second day.

He parred 16 holes and had one birdie and one bogey as he failed to recapture the momentum that earned him a one-shot lead after 18 holes.

France.

Djokovic clinched his sixth singles win in six outings this year in the tournament as Serbia, backed by a noisy, passionate crowd at the Belgrade Arena, kept their dream of a first Davis Cup title on track.

Gael Monfils had earlier handed nine-time champions France a 1-0 lead with a 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 6-0 victory over Janko Tipsarevic.

Djokovic was always in control against world number 42 Simon, who had been handed the second French singles berth in the absence of injured Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, and wrapped up the rubber after 2hr 18min on a fourth match point.

Serbia's top player, who could be called into doubles action on Saturday, praised the Belgrade crowd.

"Definitely it's an advantage for the home team playing in front of their people. To be able to have this support is really relevant," said Djokovic.

"This competition depends on crowd support. That's why this competition is very unpredictable and unique, especially at the later stages where you play top players. The crowd gives you extra if you're tired."

Monfils, the French number one who is ranked 12th in the world, displayed none of the nerves he feared would emerge in the opening rubber of France's campaign for a 10th crown.

In spite of a cold, the 24-year-old Parisian instead displayed composure in front of the largely partisan crowd as he sailed through the first set, handled a more determined charge from Tipsarevic in the second and dominated the third as his opponent crumbled.

Monfils admitted Tipsarevic's shaky start, which included two double faults, helped settle his own nerves: "I got into the match straight away and that helped settle me," he said.

"I'm really happy with the result. Janko started off with two double faults, and straight away I saw that he was tense. That helped me to relax a little."

Michael Llodra and Arnaud Clement will represent France in Saturday's doubles encounter when they are due to meet Nenad Zimonjic and Viktor Troicki while the reverse singles will be on Sunday.

However, Troicki could make way for Djokovic.

LeBron shrugs off 'LeBum' taunts and moves on



CLEVELAND (AFP) - With an emotional return to Cleveland finally behind him, a triumphant LeBron James is ready to move on and try to deliver on some of the stellar expectations of his new club, the Miami Heat.

Former Cavaliers hero James scored a season-high 38 points, 24 of them in the third quarter, and silenced a booring crowd of 20,000 Cleveland fans by helping the Heat rout the Cavaliers 118-90 on Thursday.

"It's a basketball game," James said. "I don't hold any grudges. They came out to support their team. I have the utmost respect for these fans. It's nothing personal from myself to these fans. It won't be. Ever."

"I'm moving on and I'm happy in the position I'm in."

Cavaliers fans might finally have a measure of closure as well after waiting five weeks into the season for a visit by James, the playmaker who left last July for Miami after seven seasons in Cleveland saying he thought the Heat, now 12-8, offered a better chance for him to win a championship.

Two-time NBA Most Valuable Player James was glad to look ahead to today's game against Atlanta. Against teams with winning records such as the Hawks, the Heat are a modest 4-6, far from what was expected when James joined Chris Bosh alongside star guard Dwyane Wade in Miami.

"We know we haven't played up to par against some

of the best," James said. "We're going to try to keep this momentum going."

Fans with taunting signs such as "You left your talents in Cleveland" or "LeBum" only spurred the Heat to finish off the Cavaliers that much faster, a crowd that had booed James' every touch of the ball quieting as the home team's deficit grew.

"One thing we preach a lot about in Miami is family," Wade said. "This is our brother."

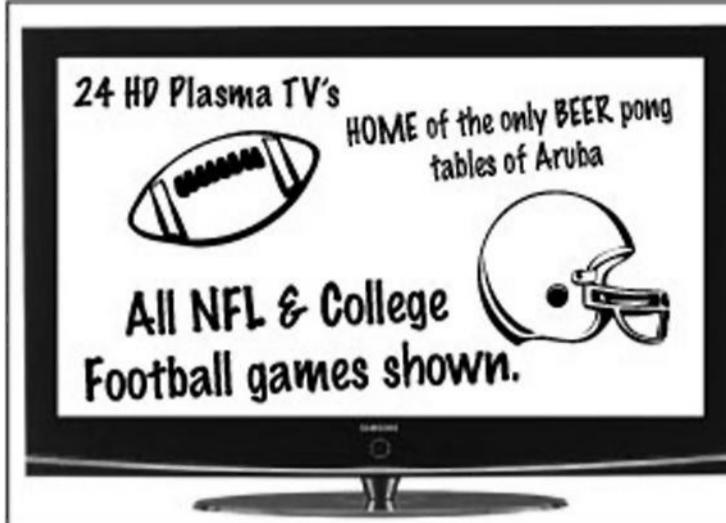
In a city that has not known a major team sports champion since 1964, fans attached their dreams to "King James" only to have them shattered when he departed, fans even burning his jerseys.

"I have nothing bad to say about these fans at all," James said. "We grew from the year before I got here, a 17-win season, to the last two years I was here, we had the best team in the league in the regular season."

"I understand their frustration. I was frustrated also because we didn't accomplish what we wanted to. I wish this organization and these fans, who are great, the best."

The Cavaliers need all the well-wishers they can get, having fallen to 7-11 ahead of playing seven of their next eight games on the road and being cruelly reminded what they lost with the departure of James.

"He played great," first-year Cavaliers coach Byron Scott said. "Simple as that. I thought he played great."



Open Monday - Friday 3:00 p.m./Saturday@12 - Sunday 10:30 a.m.

NFL tail-gate BBQ every Sunday Starting @ 10:30 am.

Mets reliever Rodriguez avoids jail in plea deal

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Mets closing relief pitcher Francisco Rodriguez pleaded guilty to attempted assault charges on Friday in a plea deal that will ensure the Venezuelan serves no jail time and is not deported.

The agreement with prosecutors settles charges that Rodriguez attacked his girlfriend's father last season at the Major League Baseball club's stadium but requires the hurler to attend one year of anger management counseling.

Rodriguez, 28, had been charged with assault, accused of grabbing Carlos Pena and punching him in the face after an August 11 game. He

Colombia 'keeper Ospina extends with Nice

NICE (AFP) - Nice have extended Colombia international goalkeeper David Ospina's current deal by a year, until 2013, the French first division side announced Friday.

The 22-year-old Ospina has emerged as one of the best goalkeepers in the French top flight, which he joined in 2008 from Atletico Nacional Medellin, and is drawing attention from major French clubs.

Nice also secured the services of Peru's international goalkeeper Raul Fernandez earlier this week on a four and a half year deal.

Fernandez was signed to cushion the impending retirement of Lionel Letizi at the end of the season and will have the number two role behind Ospina.

faced

a possible year in jail.

The pitcher tore a thumb ligament in the incident and underwent season-ending surgery, losing 3.14 million dollars by spending nearly two months on the sidelines.

"Mr. Rodriguez is very glad to have this incident behind him," said Rodriguez attorney Christopher Booth. "He's very remorseful about what happened. It has been a huge toll on him, emotionally and professionally."

Rodriguez, who faces 120 days in jail if he fails to complete treatment, also pleaded guilty to sending girlfriend Daian Pena text messages after being told not to contact her. He is ordered to stay away from the Penas for two years.

"We are pleased that Francisco has accepted responsibility for his actions," the Mets said in a statement. "We are encouraged that he will continue to undergo therapy and is committed to taking steps to improve himself."

Pacquiao ready to make a birthday 'hit list'

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) - Manny Pacquiao will meet with trainer Freddie Roach and promoter Bob Arum in two weeks for his 32nd birthday party and ponder a trio of possible future foes who are not Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Arum said that the Filipino superstar will fight next on April 16 in Las Vegas, his first bout there since November of last year, against a foe to be determined.

Fans have longed to see Pacquiao, 52-3 with two drawn and 38 knockouts, in a showdown with unbeaten American Mayweather, 41-0 with 25 knockouts. But the US boxer faces a January arraignment over a dispute with an ex-girlfriend.

With a Mayweather deal unlikely, Arum said Pacquiao will decide if he wants to fight Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez for a third time or face either US veteran Shane



Mosley or unbeaten US welterweight Andre Berto.

"Pac-Man", Roach and Arum will gather in the Philippines for Pacquiao's birthday bash on December 17 and consider the matter, with the fighter and Filipino Congressman having the final say.

For his part, Arum would

like the name recognition value offered by a fight against Mosley, 46-6 with one draw and 39 knockouts.

But Mosley, 39, was overwhelmed by Mayweather in a unanimous decision loss last May and struggled to a draw against countryman Sergio Mora last September.

Berto, 27, has less of a following but at 27-0 with 20 knockouts could offer the most compelling fight.

Completing a trilogy against Marquez could be enticing after Pacquiao settled for a draw in their 2004 meeting and won by split decision in 2008. Marquez also lost to Mayweather but has defended his lightweight title twice since.

But a Marquez fight would mean a deal coming together between bitter rival promoters Arum and Richard Schaefer, also on opposite sides in failed Mayweather talks.



Morgan Pressel hits a shot on the 4th hole during the second round of the LPGA Tour Championship at the Grand Cypress Resort on December 3, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. (AFP photo)

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Bopanna, Qureshi win peace and sport award



Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna (R) and Pakistan tennis player Aisam Ul Haq Qureshi (L) pose at the ceremony of the Peace and Sport International Forum. AFP PHOTO

MONACO (AFP) - The India-Pakistan tennis duo of Rohan Bopanna and Aisam

Ul-Haq Qureshi on this past week were honoured for their partnership with a Peace and

Slugging help for White Sox a Dunn deal

CHICAGO (AFP) - Adam Dunn has agreed to a four-year Major League Baseball deal worth 56 million dollars with the Chicago White Sox, the team announced Friday, giving the White Sox a powerful new southpaw slugger.

Dunn hit .260 with 38 home runs and 103 runs batted in for Washington last year. The 31-year-old power hitter has a .250 average with 354 career homers and 880 runs batted in over a decade with Cincinnati, Arizona and Washington.

The White Sox had been lacking a strong left-handed hitter since Jim Thome went to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2009. Thome signed with Chicago's American League Central division rival Minnesota in 2010.

Chicago now turns to re-signing free agent Paul Konerko, who rejected an arbitration offer from the White Sox after a solid 2010 season in which he batted .312 with 39 homers and 111 runs batted in.

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Sport award.

The two players featured on the ATP Tour this year wearing warm-up gear with the slogan "Stop War, Start Tennis" to publicize their belief that friendship between India and Pakistan is possible.

When he presented the award, Joel Bouzou, founder of Peace and Sport, appealed to the governments of India and Pakistan to support the players' project to organize a symbolic tennis match at the Wagah border between India and Pakistan.

"Sport is ready for peace. But will governments rise to this challenge?" he asked.



CHICAGO (AFP) - Ron Santo, a legend for the Chicago Cubs in a 15-year MLB career who also served as a radio announcer, died Thursday night at age 70.

Santo was a nine-time All-Star third baseman and spent the past 21 years in the broadcast booth, associated with the Cubs in some fashion for the past 50 years.

He died in an Arizona hospital

following complications from bladder cancer where Santo's passion for a club that has not won a World Series since 1908 was enjoyed by a generation of devoted Cubs fans.

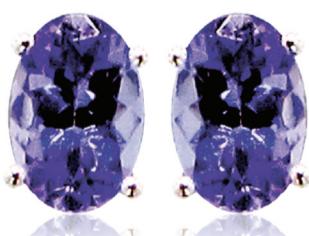
"My siblings and I first knew Ron Santo as fans, listening to him in the broadcast booth," Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts said in a statement. "We knew him for his passion, his loyalty, his great personal courage and his tremendous sense of humor.

"Ronnie will forever be in the hearts and souls of Cubs fans."

Santo played for the Cubs from 1960 through 1972 and spent the 1974 season with the cross-town rival White Sox.

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